

X-RAYS and RECENTLY RELEASED

Recently a study was published linking dental x-rays to meningioma—a common type of brain tumor. According to the Chicago Tribune, this study included people, age 20 to 79, who were diagnosed with meningioma. They were asked about their history of dental x-rays. (Seaman, 2012) The article went on to say that, “Most research on the connection is based on people who were exposed to atomic bombs or received radiation therapy.”

The American Dental Association (ADA) and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) both responded to this accusation that dental x-rays are strongly linked to meningioma. In their responses, both the ADA and the AAPD, stated that they recommend minimal usage of x-radiation.(ADA, 2012; AAPD, 2012) In the response, the ADA stated that “the study acknowledges that some of the subjects received dental x-rays decades ago when radiation exposure was greater. Radiation rates were higher in the past, due to the use of old x-ray technology and slower speed film.” (ADA, 2012)

To help readers understand the use of dental x-rays, the ADA explained, “Dental x-rays are valuable in helping dentists detect and treat oral health problems at an early stage. Many oral diseases can’t be detected on the basis of a visual and physical examination alone, and dental X-rays are valuable in providing information about a patient’s oral health such as early-stage cavities, gum diseases, infections or some types of tumors.” (ADA, 2012)

It is our policy to limit the amount of X-ray exposure our patients receive. Dr. Drum looks carefully at each case before prescribing X-rays for each patient. At All Grins 4 Kids, we follow the ADA and AAPD guidelines for X-ray exposure.

References:

ADA (10 April 2012) *Recent Study Questions Safety of Dental X-rays*. <http://www.ada.org/6972.aspx>

AAPD (10 April 2012) *AAPD Response to Release of Dental X-Ray Study*
http://www.aapd.org/hottopics/news.asp?NEWS_ID=1450

Seaman, A.M. (11 April 2012) *Dental x-rays linked to common brain tumor*. Chicago Tribune.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/sns-rt-us-dental-x-raysbre83a1e8-20120411,0,5850019,print.story>